# Saving airport costs with OpenRunway

## 24 August 2011 - One of the country's leading regional airports has already made big financial savings by using aviation services from the Met Office.

In any winter, we can expect severe weather with the risk of heavy snow and widespread ice, so it makes sense to prepare for wintry conditions.

OpenRunway and the ability to talk to a forecaster are vital sources of information for airports given the effects that the weather can have on the aviation industry.

Richard Thomasson, Airport Operations Manager at Newquay Cornwall Airport said: "Being able to plan staff accordingly, really has enhanced the snow plan, so much so that 50% less runway de-icing fluid was used compared to last year, so financially there are big cost benefits."

"In terms of winter operations we need an effective snow plan to give our passengers and our airlines confidence that we can operate all year round."

Newquay video (PDF, 93 kB)

Newquay Cornwall Airport chose the Met Office because it was important to use a brand that was recognised and trusted within the industry and by the regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority.

The UK benefits from the best possible advice provided by a National Met Service recognised as in the top two in world. Further improvements to our advice can be expected as we continue to invest in understanding and modelling the systems that drive and affect our weather.

## Contact information

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Richard Thomasson – Airport Operations Manager

Newquay Cornwall airport is a regional airport based in the south west of England. In 2010, we carried 285,000 passengers and 19,500 movements. Our business model is a mix of scheduled, general aviation and business aviation traffic.

**How does winter weather affect your operations?**
Well in simple terms, any weather affects the airport capability therefore it's important that any airport has a procedure based on regulatory guidance to deal with such matters, so in terms of winter operations we need an effective snow plan to give our passengers and our airlines confidence that we can operate all year round.

**Which Met Office services do you use?**
We currently use two Met Office services. We use OpenRunway and we also have the ability to talk to a forecaster.

**What factors were important when choosing a weather supplier?**
Well when choosing a weather supplier it was important that we went for a brand that was recognised and that was also trusted within the industry and by our regulator the Civil Aviation Authority.

**What have been the benefits from using these services?**
There have been a number of benefits from using both of those services. Operationally its given our winter ops team the cutting edge when making that decision whether or not to apply runway de-icing fluid. We've been able to plan our staff accordingly, it really has enhanced our snow plan, so much so we were able to use 50% less runway de-icing fluid compared to last year, so financially there are cost benefits because ultimately that fluid is staying in the tank and not being applied to the runway.

**How have you found working with the Met Office?**
Working with the Met Office has been absolutely fantastic, it's been a very reliable service. We've already in a short space of time built up an excellent working relationship and it will go from strength to strength from here on in.